



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Sentenced for Embezzling from Catholic School

A 35-year-old woman convicted of stealing \$260,000 from a Long Beach Catholic school was sentenced yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Maria Guadalupe Hernandez (dob 6/25/79) was found guilty on Jan. 28 in a bench trial of three counts of grand theft by embezzlement in case NAO96537.

At yesterday's sentencing, Hernandez paid back \$50,000. Additionally, she provided a security on two properties for the remaining balance of \$210,647.40.

Based on the initial repayment, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge James D. Otto suspended the maximum sentence of six years and four months in state prison.

The judge sentenced Hernandez to five years of probation and ordered the defendant to pay the remainder of the stolen funds back to the school during that time.

Deputy District Attorney Brian Kang, who prosecuted the case, said Hernandez had served as the secretary for St. Barnabas Parish School in Long Beach since 1999.

Although the school seemed to be struggling financially for years, it wasn't until 2011 that school officials became aware of irregularities in the use of the school's fundraising account and began an investigation, the prosecutor said.

During the financial inquiry, officials discovered Hernandez had stolen more than \$260,000 from the account between 2009 and 2011.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.